## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8 with the following:

It is preferable for restraining an undesirable jam or crease of the one of the sheets that as seen in the view direction, when the sheet supporting surface area extends straightly in parallel to a support line direction and passes the information reading range, $\alpha$ is an inclination angle between the support line direction and a (imaginary) tangential line of the boundary point of the transfer surface of the sheet transfer member, L is a distance between the boundary point of the transfer surface of the sheet transfer member and the information reading point (any point in the information reading range) in the support line direction, h is a distance between the boundary point of the transfer surface of the sheet transfer member and the sheet supporting surface area in a direction perpendicular to the support line direction, and $\mu$pg is a frictional coefficient between the one of the sheets and the transfer surface of the sheet transfer member, $\tan^{-1}(h/L) < \alpha <$ ~~$\tan(1/\mu pg)$~~ $\underline{\tan^{-1}(1/\mu_{pg})}$.

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9 with the following:

It is preferable for restraining an undesirable jam or crease of the one of the sheets that as seen in the view direction, when the sheet supporting surface area extends straightly in parallel to a support line direction and passes the information reading range, $\alpha$ is an inclination angle between the support line direction and a (imaginary) tangential line of the boundary point of the transfer surface of the sheet transfer member, L is a distance between the boundary point of the transfer surface of the sheet transfer member and the information reading point (any point in the information reading range) in the support line direction, h is a distance between the boundary point of the transfer surface of the sheet transfer member and the sheet supporting surface area in a direction perpendicular to the

support line direction, $\mu$pg is a frictional coefficient between the one of the sheets and the transfer surface of the sheet transfer member, and J is a distance in the direction perpendicular to the support line direction between the boundary point and an intersecting point between an imaginary line passing the information reading point (any point in the information reading range) and extending perpendicular to the support line direction and an imaginary line passing the boundary point of the transfer surface of the sheet transfer member and extending perpendicular to the tangential line of the boundary point of the transfer surface of the sheet transfer member, $J < \cancel{(h/L^2)}(L^2/h)$, and $\alpha < \cancel{\tan(1/\mu pg)} \underline{\tan^{-1}(1/\mu_{pg})}$.

On page 20, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 16 with the following:

If the angle $\alpha$ is excessively great, a frictional force between the paper sheet or the like 21 and the second guide device 23 becomes great so that a transfer trouble such as jam can occur. Therefore, when a frictional coefficient between the paper sheet or the like 21 and the second guide device 23 is $\mu$pg, the angle $\alpha$ is set in a range of

$\alpha < \cancel{\tan(1/\mu pg)} \underline{\tan^{-1}(1/\mu_{pg})}$. (formula 4)

On page 21, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 1 with the following:

A distance J between the transfer face d and the intersecting point is represented by

$J < \cancel{h/L^2} \underline{L^2/h}$ (formula 5)

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